

Staff Report 56

APPLICANT:

Koloma Exploration LLC

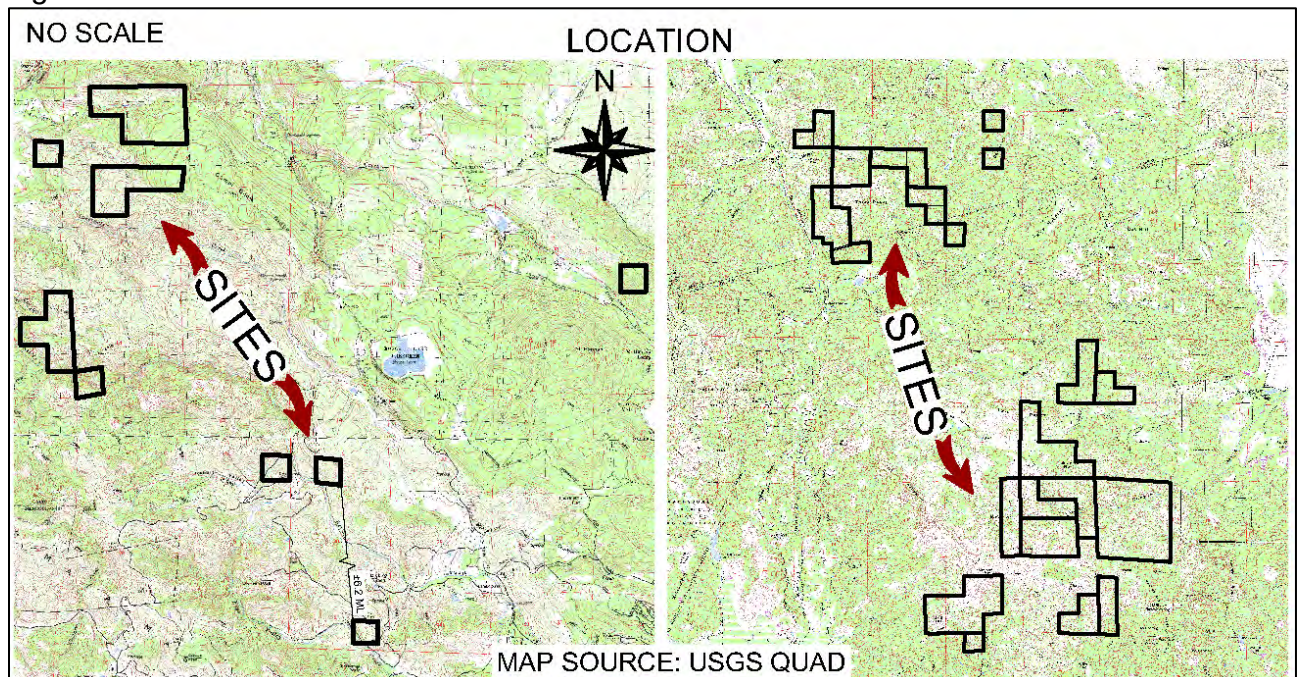
PROPOSED ACTION:

Issuance of a Non-Exclusive Geological Survey Permit.

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:

Up to 42 sites on State-owned school land parcels in Lake, Napa, and Sonoma Counties (as shown in Figure 1).

Figure 1. Location



AUTHORIZED USE:
Collection of geological data utilizing magnetotelluric survey methods (as shown in Figures 2A and 2B).

Figure 2A. Site Map

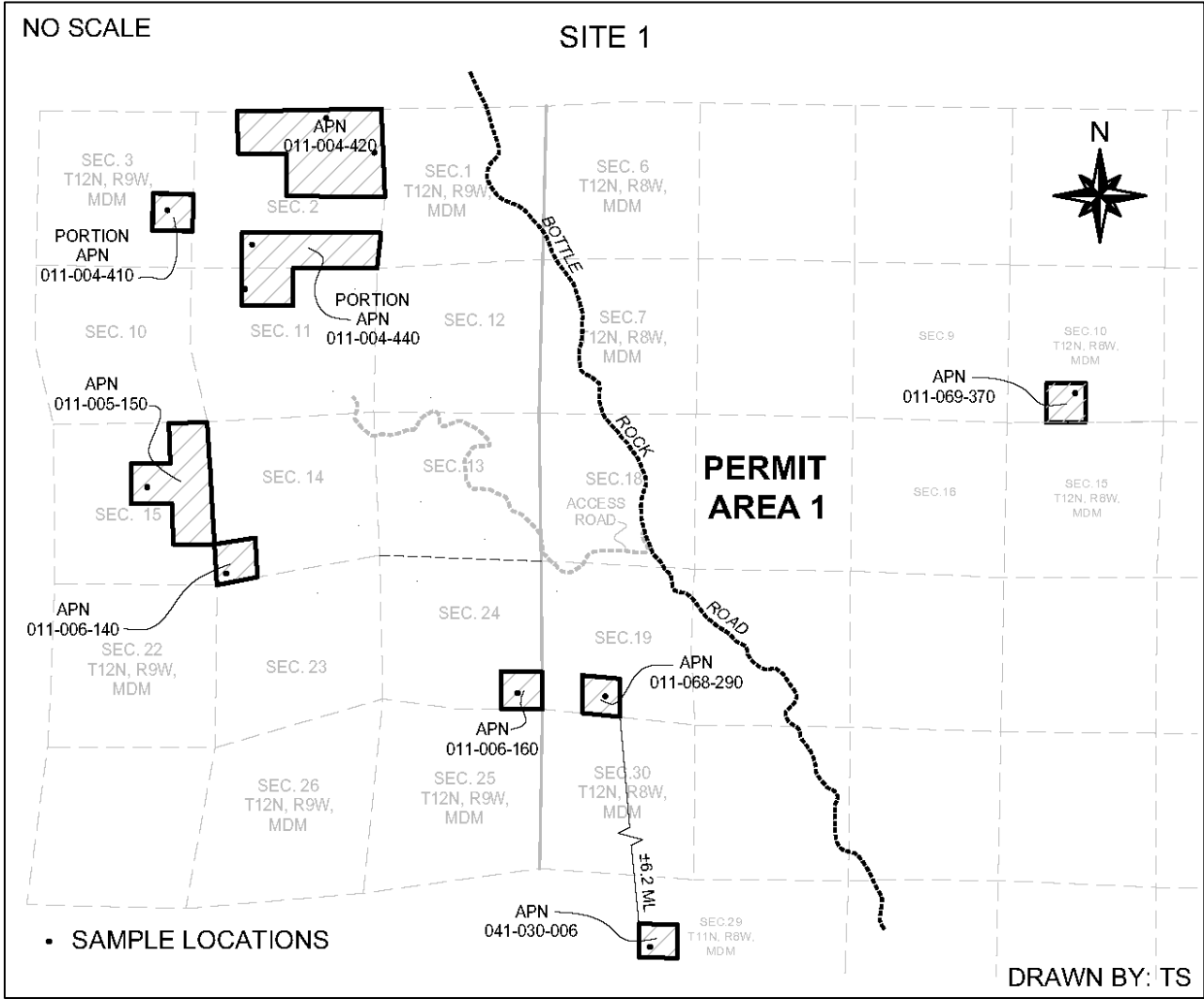
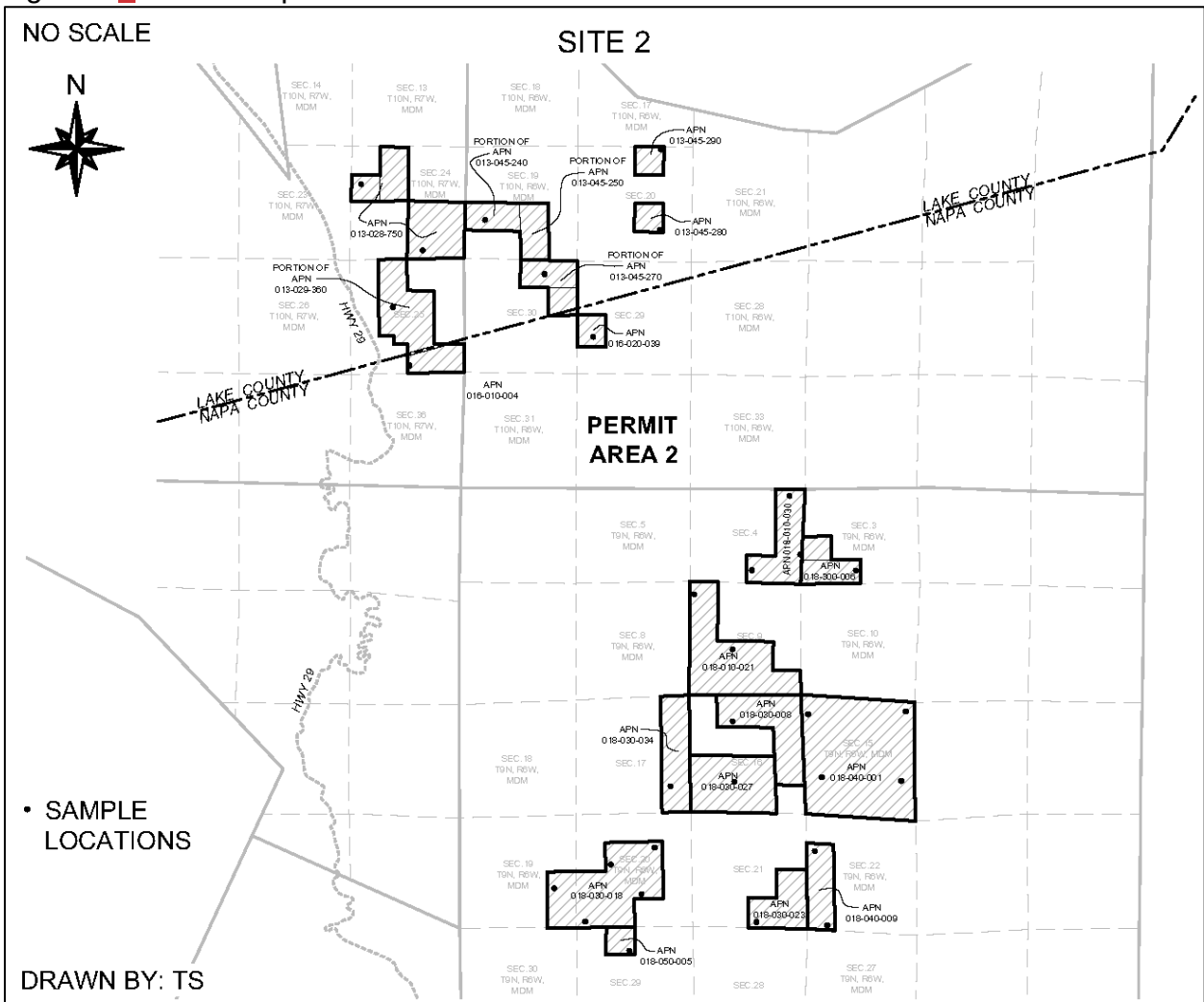


Figure 32B. Site Map



NOTE: This depiction of the lease premises is based on unverified information provided by the Applicant or other parties and is not a waiver or limitation of any State interest in the subject or any other property.

TERM:
1 year, beginning October 21, 2026.

SPECIFIC PERMIT PROVISIONS:
The general terms of this Geological Survey Permit require the permittee to provide staff with advance notification of operations, including identification of the vehicles deployed, locations of proposed survey points, as well as a field operations report following any survey activities. The permit requires staff approval of sampling locations. The permittee must perform all work with due regard for the preservation

of property and potential environmental impacts, and with due caution to minimize damages to third parties. The work must be completed within one year.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:

AUTHORITY:

Public Resources Code sections 6005, 6212.2, 6216, 6217.5, 6301, and 8701.

STATE'S BEST INTERESTS:

Koloma Exploration LLC applied for a 1-year Geological Survey Permit to collect geological and geotechnical data from State-owned school lands in Lake, Napa, and Sonoma Counties. The permit will authorize 42 magnetotelluric survey sites. Magnetotelluric surveys include burying four electrodes six inches deep in the ground, 3 one-meter-long induction coils buried horizontally in three directions approximately six inches deep and connected with cables to a data logger, and a fourth one-meter-long coil buried vertically 2.5 feet in the ground with six inches of the coil remaining above the ground. Site locations will be accessed using existing roads and the remainder on foot when no road access exists. The electrodes and induction coils will be buried using hand tools. Approximately 48 hours from initial placement, the equipment will be removed and the soil replaced to the original grade.

The geological surveying covered under this permit supports the collection of subsurface rock formation data to build digital geological models to explore geothermal and geological hydrogen potential. Geothermal energy is a naturally occurring renewable energy source that can be extracted and used. This is a key component of California's energy portfolio.

On June 9, 2026, the Commission issued a Letter of Non-Objection to Koloma Exploration, LLC to conduct nine magnetotelluric surveys on State-Owned School Lands in Lake County to determine efficacy of the surveys in the terrain and to coincide with permissions for private lands surveys. Surveys for the nine sites were completed by July 16, 2026.

The proposed permit contains restrictions such that the Permittee shall perform all work with due regard for the preservation of property covered under this permit, potential environmental impacts, and with due caution to minimize damages to

third parties. In addition, the permit grants non-exclusive use of the permit area to the permittee, and the defined work must be completed within one year.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Approval or denial of the application is a discretionary action by the Commission. Each time the Commission approves or rejects the use of State-owned school land, it exercises legislatively delegated authority and responsibility as trustee of the State's school lands as authorized by law. If the Commission denies the application, the Applicant will not be authorized to conduct geological surveys on school land. Upon expiration or prior termination of the permit, the applicant has no right to a new permit or to renewal of any previous permit.
2. This action is consistent with addressing the challenges and opportunities described in the Commission's 2021-25 Strategic Plan to "Embrace and safeguard multi-benefit School Lands and resource management stewardship that equitably balances responsible local and regional economic development, supports living wages, environmental protection, and revenue generation."
3. Staff recommends that the Commission find that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 6, Information Collection; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Commission:

CEQA FINDING:

Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project, Class 6, Information Collection; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306.

AUTHORIZATION:

Authorize issuance of a Non-Exclusive Geological Survey Permit to the Applicant to conduct geological surveys for one year, beginning October 21, 2026, to gather exploratory data utilizing magnetotelluric survey methods as described in the Permit.